

Moving Forward...

Lawrence County Board of Education



Special points of interest:

- A+ College Ready
- Fine Arts Program
- Industrial Maintenance
- Strategic Teaching
- Graduation Rates
- Technology
- Ag Initiative



R.A.K. – Random Acts of Kindness – Group of young ladies who have made it a point to go out of their way to be kind to those around them.



Art at Speake Moulton Middle at Stewart Center

Instruction...

A+ College Ready Grant

The Lawrence County School System is proud to announce that beginning the 2013-2014 school year our four high schools will be offering a total of 19 Advanced Placement classes. Courses added to our curricula will be AP English, AP Literature, AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Calculus, AP Computer Science and AP U.S. History. This will increase rigor in these areas and will better prepare our students for college. The qualifying scores on the Advanced Placement exams will be used to secure college scholarships and college credits. This will result in an average savings of \$1,200.00 per college course to the families of Lawrence County's qualifying AP students. Pre-AP courses will also be offered for middle school students.

Rates Improve

For the 2012-2013 school year, Lawrence County Schools showed a seven percent gain in graduation rate for a total of 86%. This increase puts Lawrence County Schools eleven points above the state average. Lawrence County also decreased its dropout rate to three percent. These improvements in graduation and dropout rates are the direct result of a greater emphasis being placed on instruction and student achievement for all Lawrence County Schools. According to ACHE, Alabama Commission on Higher Education, in 2012 Lawrence County drastically reduced the number of students who required remediation in Alabama public colleges.

Instructional Coaches

Lawrence County has also been chosen to participate in the *Instructional Partners Program*. As a result, Instructional Coaches are present at our high schools and our middle schools. This allows instructional coaches, principals, and key staff to focus on instructional improvement. With the addition of this and the *A+ College and Career Ready* program, making us the first system-wide acceptance for a district into the grant program. Lawrence County is now one of two county school systems in



Hazlewood 8th Grade Graduates

Alabama that has been accepted in every instructional program offered by the *Alabama Best Practices Center*. *ABPC* is a nonprofit organization focused on improvement of education in Alabama. Other *Alabama Best Practices Center Initiatives* our system participates in are *Superintendent's Leadership Network*, *Key Leaders Network*, and *Powerful Conversations Network*.

Strategic Teaching

One of the most productive elements of *Alabama Best Practices Center Initiatives* is the implementation of *Strategic Teaching* in our system. The program was initiated in all high school and middle school grades 4th and up in the 2012-13 school year. A

lead group was formed and began the professional development program to increase the engagement of all students. Training was supported by free resources available through ARI and AMSTI, as well as training by a Madison City Schools team. Lead teams then took the training to the school level. The new instructional methods have been evident already in student achievement and growth. Follow-up training continues to integrate more purposeful strategies to support greater student achievement.

New Programs

Industrial Maintenance will be added to the Career/Tech curriculum this year to make sure we have students both college and career ready. Career/Tech has increased units by four in the last two years. Lawrence County School's have been working with the Lawrence County Arts Council to develop LEAP, Lawrence Extended Arts Program. The program will be implemented countywide as an evening and weekend program beginning the 2013-14 school year and will include guitar, graphic design, and drama.

Pre-K Programs

Pre-K Instruction is expanding in Lawrence County as well. Speake and Hatton will now be funded by a \$165,000 grant from the Alabama State Department of Education. The addition of these two programs brings the total to five Pre-K programs county-wide (East Lawrence, Moulton, and Mt. Hope). The Hazlewood and Moulton communities are also served by Community Action Head Start Programs.

Moving Forward...

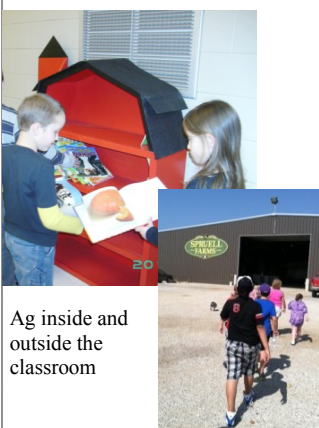
Innovation...

“Our behavior is a function of our decisions, not our conditions.”



All Winners!!!!
 Hatton High 2A State Softball Champions
 East Lawrence FFA Quartet State Winners
 Lawrence County Special Olympics State Medal Winners
 Lawrence County High State Champion Poultry Judging

Leader In Me
 Hatton Elementary will be implementing the *Leader in Me* program based on *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. The *Leader in Me* is a whole-school transformation model which produces results such as higher academic achievement, fewer discipline problems, and increased engagement among teachers and parents. Better yet, *The Leader in Me* equips students with the self-confidence and skills they need to thrive in the 21st century economy. Hatton Elementary will look to Moulton Elementary, a Lighthouse School, a title awarded by Franklin Covey to honor the attainment of a well-rounded leadership model to serve as a model of leadership and mentors in this endeavor.



Ag inside and outside the classroom

Technology
 Technology continues to be a focus for Lawrence County Schools. East Lawrence High School has gone wireless allowing greater ease for the use of electronic devices for classroom instruction. Changes in the electronic device/cell phone policy allows students to use personal devices to supplement classroom assignments. The district uses computer based programs to help focus classroom instruction and student achievement. *ClassWorks*, instructional software, will be utilized by all k-8 schools in our district for supplemental instruction for improved student achievement.

Ag Initiative
 The Agricultural Initiative keeps Lawrence County as one of two innovative school districts in Alabama. Our school system has received statewide attention for this program. In the past year we have integrated Ag with our Biology program



and plan to incorporate it into Algebra this school year. The *2nd Annual Agricultural Initiative Career Day* in conjunction with the Alabama Chicken and Egg Festival was again a huge success. Just a few of the presenters were Dr. Tommy Bice, AL Superintendent of Education, John McMillan, AL Agricultural Commissioner, Dr Fudd Graham and Scott McElroy, Auburn University, and Edwin Marty, *The Urban Farmer*. Numerous local and state agencies were represented as well as representatives from industry, colleges and organizations.



Facilities...

Lawrence County Schools received approximately \$2.1 million dollars of grant funding from FEMA for new construction. A new academic building is being constructed at Hatton High School, as well as a new cafeteria shared by Moulton Middle School and Moulton Elementary School. The new buildings will contain FEMA rated storm shelters, built to withstand 250 mph winds, utilizing FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Funding. Also, the system is making repairs to the football field at East Lawrence High School and building a new gym/field house at Lawrence

County High with insurance and bond issue funds. The system will be issuing an additional bond to complete other athletic/gym projects at school communities across the county. The Lawrence County Board of Education recently purchased the old

Bank Independent Building in downtown Moulton to become the future home of a new Technology and Teacher Training Center.



Moulton Elementary/Middle Cafeteria and Hatton High Academic Building